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MONTANA COMMITTEE FOR THE
HUMANITIES
NEWSLETTER

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MCH AWARDED $295,000

Dr. Ronald Berman, Chairman of the National Endowment for the humanities, has notified the Montana Committee for the Humanities' Chairman Dr. Roy E. Huffman, Bozeman, that the MCH has been granted a total of $295,000 in NEH funds for its 4th grant year, October 1, 1975 - Sept. 30, 1976. $255,000 is earmarked for program development and regrants to members of the public interested in proposing and carrying out projects which meet NEH guidelines necessary for MCH sponsoring, while the remaining $40,000 of the grant is to be set aside for administrative costs.

FIVE REGIONAL CONFERENCES

Each fall for the past three years the Montana Committee for the Humanities has sponsored a large state-wide conference in one of the bigger cities, to stimulate dialogue on issues of public policy from a humanistic perspective, and to generate grant proposals from groups throughout the state. This year, however, the Committee is sponsoring five smaller conferences in Kalispell, Butte, Glendive, Havre, and Lewistown. The overall theme for the conference is "The Impact of Technology on Montana." In each of these five communities a local steering committee has chosen a topic of particular interest to that region to be discussed.

Major concerns in Butte and in the Flathed Valley (see below, right) involve issues of energy use and technology. The Glendive steering committee is interested in a conference to examine the social impact of technological development in Eastern Montana. Both Havre and Lewistown will focus on the impact of technology on private life; a Havre conference in January will emphasize private rights such as the right to die, while Lewistown's focus for discussion will be questions of the impact of technology on the right of privacy.

The general format of the Kalispell and Butte conferences will be an evening panel of four persons followed by questions and comments from the audience. In each town a workshop will be held the following morning to advise people on how to apply for grants from the Committee.

More detailed information on the conferences at Havre, Glendive and Lewistown will appear in the next Committee Newsletter. Announcements will be made in the local media just prior to each conference. For further information contact the MCH office in Missoula, 322 Turner Hall, or call 243-6022.

KALISPELL

The first of five Committee-sponsored regional conferences will be held at the Outlaw Inn, 1701 Highway 93, S. Kalispell, on Monday, November 17, from 7p.m.to10p.m. Ora Halvorson, Montana State Legislator from Kalispell, will moderate a panel discussion on "Energy Policy and the Flathead Valley." Panel members will include Ted Clack, Montana Energy Advisory Council (Lt. Gov.'s Office); Thomas C. Kryser, Vice President of Energy and Minerals at Burlington Northern Incorporated, Billings; Dr. Lauren McKinsey, Political Scientist and staff member of the State Commission on Local Government; Thurmond Trosper, President, National Wildlife Federation, Ronan; and a representative from Montana Power Co.

The panelists will deal with State and national energy policy, business energy needs, and the natural gas shortage. Consideration will be given to the effects of various energy policies both on national and Flathead Valley resources and on the quality of life of Americans everywhere and Valley residents in particular. Further, there will be an attempt to examine the available choices in the directions that energy policy might take with special emphasis on the implementation of those choices through the political decision-making process.

After the panelists complete their presentations, the discussion will be thrown open to the audience. All interested persons are invited to attend.

On the following morning (Nov.18) a special workshop will be held from 9:30 a.m. - Noon at the Outlaw Inn. At that time members from the Committee and staff will give advice on grant criteria for Committee-funded projects.

BUTTE

The mining city's Ramada Inn at 2900 Harrison Avenue will be the scene of a Committee-sponsored Regional Conference on Wednesday, November 19. A panel and public discussion on "Mining to MHD: Technology and Butte's Past and Future," will take place from 7 to 10 p.m. on that date. The panelists will be Professor Albert Borgmann, Philosophy, U of M; Professor Richard McConnen, Economics, MSU: Professor Terrence McGlynn, History, Montana Tech; and Dr. Jerry Plunkett, Director of the Montana Energy Research

Dr. Jerry D. Plunkett,
Managing Director of MERDI

and Development Institute in Butte. Dr. Roy Huffman, Vice President for Research, MSU and Chairman, MCH, will moderate.

Magnetohydrodynamics (MHD) is an alternative method of burning coal. The promise of MHD is that it may generate 50% more electricity from the same amount of coal used in traditional coal burning methods while at the same time dramatically reducing the polluting effects of burning coal. For some, any method of producing energy more efficiently is merely a means of maintaining energy consumption at present high levels and of increasing those levels in the future. For many of the people actually involved in energy research, new methods of efficient energy production represent, instead, aids in lowering energy consumption. In either case certain questions surface: Why do we depend so much on energy? Why do we associate "the good life" with high energy use? Could we live as well or better than we do now if energy use were decreased?

Energy is just one part of the technology issue. The panel will examine the social, economic, and environmental impact of technology on Montana's and Butte's past, and will explore the impact of advanced technology on the future. Included in the discussion will be an explanation of MHD and a look at how MHD and other research at MERDI (Montana Energy and MHD Research and Development Institute, Inc.) in Butte is progressing.

On the next day (Nov. 20) there will be a workshop at the Ramada Inn from 9 a.m. - Noon, where Comittee members and staff will offer assistance to persons interested in applying for MCH grants.

MCH GRANT CRITERIA

The Committee encourages applications from any non-profit organization or ad hoc group interested in organizing a public program. Potential projects must [1] be related to the theme "Private Rights and Public Choice," [2] involve teachers in the liberal arts in both planning and implementation, [3] focus on a public policy issue, [4] provide for a balanced exchange of views, and [5] be directed to the out-of-school public. In addition, applicants must be able to provide in-kind service and/or donated cash equaling the amount requested from the MCH. For application forms and more information, contact the MCH office, 322 Turner Hall, Missoula, or phone 243-6022.

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